

REMARKS**35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection**

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7-9, and 13-15 as obvious over Griffin et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0063456) in view of Lesguillier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,727,804). Each of the pending claims recite a central base adapted to communicate over a public telecommunication network, over a wireless local area network, and over a supply line.

Neither Griffin et al. nor Lesguillier et al. disclose a single device for communicating between a public telecommunication network and a supply line or a wireless local area network and a supply line, nor does Griffin et al. or Lesguillier et al. provide a motivation or suggestion to modify or combine their teachings to produce the claimed combination.

In particular, Lesguillier et al. discloses a transmitter that sends messages over a power supply line to a receiver. However, Lesguillier et al. does not disclose or teach modifying its supply line communication system to include any other communication means and in fact, does not even discuss any other communication means.

While Griffin et al. discloses a device that can communicate over two different communication mediums, Griffin et al. still fails to disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest a single device that communicates over a telecommunication network, a wireless local area network, and over a supply line. Specifically, Griffin et al. discloses a cell phone device 160 that is able to communicate over a telecommunication network and over a wireless network to a wireless earpiece 162. In this system, neither the cell phone nor the wireless earpiece provides communication between a telecommunication network and a supply line or between a wireless local network and a supply line. In particular, the earpiece 162 only provides a single communication transceiver and thus, does not even teach communication with more than a single medium. Moreover, while the cell phone device 160 communicates with the earpiece 162 and separately communicates on a telecommunication network, the cell phone and earpiece are designed to be portable and communicate wirelessly, thereby teaching away from a device connected to a supply line (a wired communication link) and communicating over a supply line, as recited by the pending claims.

Griffin et al. further discloses a base station 234 that may be used to charge the cell phone 160 (labeled 212 in Figure 18) and/or earpiece 162 (labeled 214 in Figure 18), where the base station may communicate wirelessly with the cell phone and/or the earpiece:

The third module 234 is preferably adapted for short-range communications with either the first communication module 21[2] over the a [sic] short range RF link 236, the second communication module 214 over another short range RF link 238, or both. Paragraph 0061.

While the base station may be stationary, the base station communicates wirelessly with the cell phone 160 and earpiece 162. Similar to the cell phone 160, the use of wireless communication to communicate with portable devices teaches away from modifying either communication link to be a communication link using a supply line. In one embodiment, base station 234 may additionally communicate with a personal computer connected thereto. However, Griffin et al. fails to suggest why the communication between the base station and the personal computer should be over a supply line. In fact, Griffin et al., at paragraph 0061, teaches the opposite, as the base station 234 is integrated into the computer, eliminating the need or suggestion for an external communication link between base station 234 and the computer.

The office action cites paragraph 0062 describing a pico-based network for motivation to combine or modify. To the best understanding of Applicants, a pico-based network appears to use part of a local area network (which may be wired or wireless) to carry a signal between one or more wireless devices, such as 212 and 214. However, Applicants are confused as to how communication between two wireless devices over a local area network suggests communicating over a supply line. As known by those skilled in the art, a wired network, such as an Ethernet or Token Ring (two popular networking systems), is not designed or intended to supply power to a device. Moreover, the operation of an Ethernet or Token Ring network is different from point to point communication between a transmitter and receiver over a supply line, such as the transmitter and receiver disclosed in Lesguiller et al. Thus, the use of a second local area network in addition to a wireless link to a cell phone

device 212 or earpiece 214 does not provide a suggestion to include or incorporate communication over a supply line.

Furthermore, the base station 234 is not connected to a public telecommunication network, in any manner. Thus, even if the communication between one or more base stations of Griffin et al. is carried over a wired network and that wired network is considered a supply line (which Applicants submit that it is not), Griffin et al. still fails to teach or suggest a central base adapted to communicate over a public telecommunication network and over a supply line, as recited by the pending claims.

Accordingly, because neither Griffin et al. nor Lesguiller et al. provide any motivation or suggestion to provide a central base adapted to communicate over a public telecommunication network, over a wireless local area network, and over a supply line, no combination of Griffin et al. and Lesguiller et al. can render the pending claims obvious.

Claims 3-6, 10, 11, 12, and 16 are rejected as being obvious over the combination of Griffin et al. and Lesguiller et al. in further view of one of De Ruijter et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0036568), Johnston et al. (U.S. 5,787,360), Folger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,337,044), or Watler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,836,655). Each of claims 3-6, 10, 11, 12 and 16 also recite a central base adapted to communicate over a public telecommunication network, over a wireless local area network, and over a supply line. As discussed above neither Griffen et al. nor Lesguiller et al. provide the required motivation or suggestion to provide a central base adapted to communicate over a public telecommunication network, over a wireless local area network, and over a supply line. None of De Ruijter et al., Johnston et al., Lesguiller et al., or Watler et al. provide the required motivation, nor are De Ruijter et al., Johnston et al., Folger et al., or Watler et al. cited for this purpose. It follows therefore, that no combination of Griffin et al., Lesguiller et al., De Ruijter et al., Johnston et al., Folger et al. and Watler et al. can render claims 3-6, 10, 11, 23, and 16 obvious.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and arguments, Applicants submit the pending application is in condition for allowance and an early action so indicating is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

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